

**From:** Cynthia Caporale/ESC/R3/USEPA/US  
**Sent:** 4/18/2012 2:41:21 PM  
**To:** Robin Costas/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Kelley Chase/R3/USEPA/US@EPA  
**CC:**  
**Subject:** Fw: Elevated QL

Since the sample number I was working with this morning was incorrect I have re-written the response to Rich as a generic response.

Cynthia Caporale, Chief  
OASQA Laboratory Branch  
U.S. EPA Region III  
Environmental Science Center  
Fort Meade, MD  
(410) 305-2732  
Fax: (410) 305-3095

----- Forwarded by Cynthia Caporale/ESC/R3/USEPA/US on 04/18/2012 02:39 PM -----

Cynthia Caporale/ESC/R3/USEPA/US wrote on 04/18/2012 02:39:24 PM:

> From: Cynthia Caporale/ESC/R3/USEPA/US  
> To: Richard Rupert/R3/USEPA/US  
> Date: 04/18/2012 09:36 AM  
> Subject: Elevated QL  
>  
> Rich,  
>  
> As per our discussion this morning, some compounds may have elevated  
> quantitation limits (reporting limits) for pentachlorophenol.  
> Below are the reasons; however, to assess a particular data point  
> and the associated reason I would need to know the sample number.  
>  
> During the project level review the QL can be elevated for two reasons:  
>  
> Blank contamination: When a target compound is present in a blank  
> (method or field) the laboratory will qualify the sample result(s)  
> with a "B" when the value is at least 5x and sometimes 10x the blank  
> value. For the project level review the National Functional  
> Guidelines were used and the procedures for blank contamination  
> require the quantitation limit to be elevated (to the level of the  
> highest associated blank) and qualified "U" as non-detect.  
>  
> QC criteria not met: When a low-spike quality control sample has a  
> recovery of 0% for a particular compound, the QL is raised to the  
> level of the next QC sample (mid-level spike QC sample).  
>  
> I've attached the lab reported submitted for organics that was used  
> for the project level review.  
>  
> [attachment "1201013 FINAL PART 2 of 3 R33907 02 11 12 1537.pdf"  
> deleted by Cynthia Caporale/ESC/R3/USEPA/US]  
>  
> Cynthia Caporale, Chief  
> OASQA Laboratory Branch  
> U.S. EPA Region III  
> Environmental Science Center  
> Fort Meade, MD  
> (410) 305-2732  
> Fax: (410) 305-3095